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Mayor Fulop Proposes Community-Minded Changes to Newark Avenue Pedestrian Plaza Operations

The New Rules Will Reduce Late Night Disruptions to Surrounding Neighborhood in Anticipation of Summer Season

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** has proposed changes to the ordinance guiding the operations of the Newark Avenue Pedestrian Plaza which aims to reduce late-night noise from the area’s rooftop bars, as well as updates to the operating plan to help stagger the crowds leaving local bars at closing time. The City expects to continue to see an increase in rooftop establishments along this corridor, and believes that these proposed changes can help create a safer and more manageable environment for the community.

“During the past few years, the Newark Avenue Pedestrian Plaza has attracted new businesses and restaurants that have helped to create a vibrant and lively community space,” said Mayor Fulop. “We want to encourage the growth of this restaurant row without compromising the well-being of local residents. The proposed changes to the bars and restaurants on the plaza will help us to find that balance, and create a space that can be enjoyed by visitors and the community alike as we head into the busy summer season.”

The ordinance seeks to amend Chapter 67 of the Municipal Code which deals with pedestrian malls, including the Newark Avenue Plaza. Bars and restaurants with rooftop service will not longer be permitted to operate outdoors after midnight, but can continue to serve patrons inside the establishment until closing time. Currently, sidewalk cafes are permitted to operate until midnight on Friday and Saturday, with earlier closing times during weekdays. The proposed changes to rooftop bar operations aim to follow this standard, so that all outdoor activity is limited after midnight.

In addition, changes to the Newark Avenue Pedestrian Plaza Operating Plan are being proposed which will require bars and restaurants to restrict re-entry after 1am. Hoboken has previously enacted a similar ban on re-entry to help curb late-night activity and make closing time crowds more manageable.

“These are small, yet important, changes to operation of our local bars and restaurants that will greatly impact the community’s quality of life. Building a safe space that is respectful to our residents is our ultimate priority,” said Mayor Fulop.

All media inquiries should be directed to Hannah Peterson at HPeterson@jcnj.org or 732-881-1209.